



# ATF NIBIN Program

# Hits of the Week

October 13 to October 27, 2003



NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

**Week of 10/27:** NIBIN use at the Sheriff's Office in Montgomery County, Ohio, enabled officers to link cartridge casings from a recent shooting to casings recovered at the scene of an unsolved homicide in Dayton, Ohio, two years earlier. In the unsolved homicide case, Dayton Police responded to a report of a body found in a wooded area; the female victim had been shot multiple times. Cartridge casings from a 9mm handgun were recovered at the scene and entered into IBIS. No suspect had been identified. Two years later, officers from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene of a shooting incident where they found numerous shell casings in 9mm and .40-caliber. Officers learned that the victim had driven himself to the hospital after being shot. The victim's vehicle was located outside the hospital and had several gunshot holes in the driver's door. Police recovered a .40-caliber pistol from the victim. The victim identified the suspect who shot him. The cartridge casings recovered at the scene of the shooting were imaged into IBIS, which resulted in a link of the 9mm casings to those recovered in the Dayton homicide case two years earlier. The suspect has been arrested and charges are pending.

**Week of 10/20:** The use of imaging through NIBIN was instrumental in helping the Los Angeles Police Department link several gang shootings that occurred in a five-day period, resulting in the arrest of three suspects. In the first shooting two victims were wounded in a parking lot. One victim told police the shooting was drug related and provided a description of the vehicle in which the suspects were riding. Shell casings were recovered at the scene and imaged into IBIS. The following day two more victims were shot by alleged rival gang members. One of the victims died from his wounds. Shell casings were recovered at the scene and imaged into IBIS. Four days later, another victim was shot while walking down the street. The suspect got out of a vehicle and shot the victim in the head as he walked. The victim survived the shooting. Shell casings were recovered at the scene and imaged into IBIS. The same day police were contacted by an individual who reported seeing a vehicle, similar to the one seen in the first shooting, across the street from his residence. He heard gunshots, looked out the window of his home and saw the vehicle driving away. Five hours later, the owner of a gas station nearby found the victim lying dead on the ground near a pay phone. More shell casings were recovered at the scene, and a security camera recorded the homicide on tape. The suspects were seen walking up to the victim, shooting and then running from the scene. Three days later police conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle fitting the description of the vehicle seen in two of the shootings. A search of the car resulted in the officers finding two handguns. The three occupants were arrested for possession of firearms. The guns were test fired and imaged into NIBIN, producing the links to the shootings.

**Week of 10/13:** The South Bend, Indiana, Police Department attributed the use of NIBIN to helping them locate and charge the suspect in a homicide. South Bend Police responded to a report of a person shot at a residence. The victim was a 3-year old child who suffered a gunshot wound to the foot after he had been playing with a gun in the house and it accidentally discharged. Police recovered a cartridge casing at the scene and took the firearm into custody. The casing was imaged into IBIS and the gun was returned to the owner six months later. Over a year later South Bend Police responded to a report of a shooting at a fast food restaurant. The victim was shot several times and later died at the hospital. A vague description of the suspect was provided and six cartridge casings were recovered at the scene. The casings were imaged into IBIS and were linked to the casing imaged from the accidental shooting of the 3-year old. The suspect was arrested and charged with murder, but the weapon was never recovered. The defendant entered a plea of guilty to the murder charge.